

Cedar Lake Spring Regatta 2009

Surprisingly, there were 4 great races held last Saturday for the Cedar Lake Spring Regatta. The forecast was miserable and last year's moldy old wet weather gear was begrudgingly applied.

At 9:55am the rain stopped and the skies lightened and the anticipated delay to 11:00am took a sharp turn as the Judges headed out on the water to assess whether a course could be set. An "efficient" Skipper's meeting was held since we've all done it before with the main instruction being "Let's mount up and get into it".

Even though there were 10 C boats in the parking lot, 9 C boats hit the water as well as 6 MC's. One of the joys of the regatta was seeing an immaculate 1962 Wooden C boat strut it's stuff out on to the lake.

The racing was thrilling with people vacillating between taking on a 3rd or going with 2. Most ended up with 2 on board, which made for energetic and excellent racing. We need to be careful that today's weather channel technology doesn't spoil the reality of challenging the elements.

The first race, a W4, got off at 10:21am with tight racing throughout. Paul Reilly and Aaron Mann in A-14 took the gun with Jimmy Tews and Jenny Jaessing in A-22 only a length behind and Glenn McMurray and Ed Leslie on D-29 even closer than that. We did hear a call from A-111 "where's BL14 – the wooden boat". I'm not sure whether that was because they were worried about being beaten by them or the expense of crashing into them?!?

Fortunately Captain Leo and Janet on BL-14 were as casual about their start times as they were about their finish times. And might I say at this point, it was wonderful having both of them along, it made for lots of fun, (and Leo, I've washed your pyjama's and you can pick them up at the Over 40's regatta!)

Race 2 was a back-to-back and started quickly after race 1, as hanging around doing nothing, tended to turn knees blue for those silly enough to wear shorts! It was a competitive start as the wind had dropped slightly making it perfect conditions for 2 on board. A similar pattern developed with A-14 taking the lead and tussling with A-22. D-29 took a chance and headed for the corners. That worked well for the first two up winds of the W3+ but came undone at the finish with the results being A-14 1st, A-22 2nd, Fred Sr. and Fred Jr. Barkow in A-25 coming in 3rd with D-29 in 4th.

The lunch break was taken with hot chili warming the inside and the gas fire to warm the outside.

There was much discussion about the planned back-to-back in the afternoon and the mood was hedging towards only one, but the Regatta chair suggested there was time for two and we were here to sail and any day it doesn't snow is a good day – so a back to

back it was. It was obvious to a few of us that Matt Zea was keen to get started on the second half of the program, as he was seen floating past the dock with his painter still tied, just not attached to anything.

The third race saw much position swapping as conditions became blustery but the tactical brilliance of Ed Leslie and the clever steering of Glenn McMurray on D-29 finally prove themselves as they crossed the line ahead of A-14 with Brian Sprinkman and John McGowan in A-111 coming in third and Dave Baldus and myself in A-77 stepping into fourth. Tired, feeling old and looking forward to that free beer, we started the fourth and final race after a general recall. A-77 took a port tack quickly off the start line and rounded the first mark in front, but hotly contested by D-29. With a steadier breeze, the placings remained consistent through the race with A-77 taking the bullet, followed by D-29, A-111 in third place and Matt Zea in E-2 taking out a well-deserved 4th.

Final results of the regatta saw the two top boats A-14 and D-29 tied with 10 points, A-14 taking the first place with two race wins and D-29 second place with one race win. Moving up to third place after the fourth race win was A-77 (who suggested that fourth race!).

Over all it was great conditions for racing and great competition in each race. I'd like to thank Chip Mann and his brave bunch of volunteers for doing a fantastic job in cold and blustery conditions, Rob Eckert for the Free Beer and all who helped on the heart warming hot chili lunch. Because of them we all had an enjoyable and memorable time.